

Chapter 151

Seeing the man, Jennifer threw herself into his arms and acted as if she was having a hard time. Tears streamed down her face.

Jennifer sobbed, "Dad, he is bullying me..."

Jennifer's accusation surprised Ethan. His hatred of Jennifer was growing. Ethan explained, "Wait a second. You are lying! Me? Bullying you? You are the one who won't stop cursing me!"

Ethan had to set Jennifer's lie straight. He didn't want to have the bad name of a bully. The rumor would mislead people and create more trouble for Ethan.

Moreover, Ethan was the one being bullied. He wouldn't want to take an untrue accusation from Jennifer after being bullied by her.

Ethan would never take the blame like this.

However, the man didn't show signs of trust in Ethan's words. After all, Jennifer was his daughter.

The man would protect Jennifer no matter how wayward she was.

Pierre had been spoiling Jennifer ever since she was born. Seeing Jennifer crying and telling him she was bullied, Pierre Campbell couldn't spare more attention to Ethan's words.

Pierre glared at Ethan with a gloomy face and asked, "Who the hell are you? How can you openly bully a young woman? I want you to apologize to my daughter immediately!"

Pierre's words made Ethan speechless.

Ethan was surprised at the way Pierre dealt with the incident. Before knowing what really happened, Pierre believed Jennifer's words and demanded Ethan to apologize?

No one would solve problems like that!

Ethan was angry at the way he treated him. It might be true that the Campbell family was somewhat wealthy, but it didn't give them the right to act in a superior manner.

Ethan sighed. If they weren't going to be reasonable, Ethan didn't think it's necessary to treat them civilly.

Ethan replied, "Apologies? Do you even know what has happened? How are you so sure that I would apologize to her as you ask? Do you think you can force me to do whatever you and your daughter want?"

Pierre was embarrassed by Ethan's series of questions.

When he saw Jennifer cried, Pierre was panicked, and he threw the accusation at Ethan without thinking.

Ethan's questions made him calmed down to think. Pierre looked embarrassed.

He just dropped Jennifer off and went to park his car, and he didn't witness the altercation between Jennifer and Ethan.

Pierre scratched his head and took a look at Jennifer, asking, "Jennifer, it's okay. Calm down. Tell dad what happened? Don't worry. I'll help you if you are really bullied!"

Pierre straightened his tie and looked at Ethan with a serious face as if telling Ethan that he would be unbiased.

Jennifer looked up at Pierre and then squinted at Ethan. She suddenly spoke, "What happened? He was bullying me! Dad, he is from my university, and he has been holding a grudge against me because I ruined his scheme to do nasty things to Yura. He just took the opportunity to take revenge on me. You don't know, dad, not only he insulted me, but he was going to hit me before you showed up."

Jennifer didn't even flinch when she was telling her lies.

Ethan tried very hard to restrain his anger after hearing Jennifer's story.

He just realized that Jennifer was shameless as she was vicious.

Pierre trusted Jennifer for everything she said. He believed that Ethan was up for bad things to Yura, and he tried to take revenge on Jennifer after the attempt was failed.

He looked at Ethan with his face full of disgust and said coldly, "What else do you have to say? I know Jennifer can be a little spoiled, but I trust her character. She would never lie!"

Pierre's overconfidence in Jennifer left Ethan speechless.

Ethan shook his head with a bitter smile and replied, "Mr. Campbell, right? Did you see with your own eyes the thing Jennifer just said? How can you be so sure she wasn't lying?"

He continued, "It's true that we are from the same university. But the reason I know Jennifer because my friend and I saved Yura and her from some punk's harassment at a hot pot restaurant. My friend and myself even got injured for helping them."

"But do you know how your daughter treated us after we saved them? She insulted us and told us that we were disgusting. She even accused us of being accomplices of those punks. I'm asking you. What would you think of this?"

Ethan continued, "And things are just getting started. First of all, I have to put out a disclaimer. I have no intention of approaching your daughter. To be honest with you, I don't want to waste a single second on her. But your daughter keeps harassing my girlfriend and me. If you don't believe my words, ask the people from the music club. She uses her position as the vice president and bullies my girlfriend regularly. What's more, she smashed the guitar I bought my girlfriend and tried to rob the second one, which she mistakenly thought it was hers."

"After the truth came out that she took the wrong guitar, she smashed the second one also!"

Ethan looked at Pierre and asked, "May I ask you, is this your definition of a never lying daughter?"

Hearing Ethan's words, Pierre was stunned. He looked at Jennifer.

Pierre remembered that he once needed to meet a famous Japanese interior designer. So he took a business trip there and bought Jennifer a Yamaha guitar in Japan.

"Is... is this true?" Pierre looked at Jennifer and asked.

Jennifer's face turned red upon hearing Pierre's question. She knew everything Ethan was telling was true.

Jennifer felt as if Pierre was integrating her. She was panicked.

Jennifer usually put on the look of a docile and well-behaved daughter in front of Pierre. But her close friends knew that she only pretended the look for asking for money from Pierre.

Jennifer was clear all her fake image would be collapsed in Pierre's mind once he found out her real behavior to other people.

Pierre was a strict father. Although he would satisfy all of Jennifer's demands, Pierre was extremely stern when dealing with her mistakes.

That's why Jennifer learned to put on a second face in front of her father.

Jennifer was nervous. If Pierre found out everything she had done, what's await her would be endless anger.

She made up her mind that she would try everything to deny Ethan's accusation. Because she hated Ethan so much, Jennifer planned to put them back on him.

Jennifer suddenly pointed at Ethan and said, "Dad, how can you believe what he said? Do you know how disgusting he is? Everyone at my university knows him."

She continued, "Yes, we do have bad histories, but that's because he and his girlfriend ganged together to bully me. They hit me with the guitar, and that's how I broke it. They told me the guitar worth three million dollars and asked me to pay them back!"

Jennifer's words were getting more outrageous. Before she could finish, she burst out crying again.

Pierre had been undecided about believing Ethan's words. He thought maybe Ethan was telling the truth.

But after hearing Jennifer mentioned a three-million-dollar guitar, Pierre judged Ethan's words as a complete lie.

He said surprisedly, "What? A three-million-dollars guitar? Is it made of diamonds? Ridiculous! Is my daughter telling the truth?"

Pierre's attitude towards Ethan suddenly shifted. He sarcastically looked at Ethan and waited for his answer.

He couldn't believe that a guitar could worth three million dollars.

The year sales of his company were tens of millions, and the profit was only millions.

With Ethan's ordinary appearance, Pierre might be able to believe his words if he said the guitar cost thousands, even tens of thousands.

But a three-million-dollars guitar? No way Pierre could believe Ethan was able to own that kind of money.

Ethan's whole credits were gone in Pierre's mind.

Pierre hadn't had a preconceived aversion to Ethan. But at this moment, he didn't like Ethan.

He thought Ethan was vain and calculating, and his character simply didn't match his ingenious look.

Pierre started to hold prejudice toward Ethan.

Pierre sneered. He looked at Ethan and questioned, "So you said the guitar was three million dollars?"

Ethan didn't flinch upon the truth. Jennifer had indeed broken his three million dollars guitar.

He nodded. "Yes, the guitar cost me three million dollars."

Pierre suddenly burst into laughter, "Ridiculous! Three million? What a lie! You have three million? If you do, why didn't you use them on something more practical? To buy a guitar?"

Pierre didn't hide his distrust of Ethan. He continued, "Young man, you let me down. I see that you look like a kid from the countryside, so I thought you are simple and ingenious. I wasn't gonna give you a hard time even you bullied my daughter. But you are bluffing shamelessly. You make me disgusted! Are you gonna tell me that you are not a countryside kid but an urban kid? Or you actually have rich parents? Otherwise, how could you explain a three million dollars guitar?"

"Ignorant. Ridiculous!" Pierre shook his head with a bitter smile.

Pierre's words upset Ethan. Pierre had the right not to believe Ethan, but what he was saying was to slander Ethan's name.

It seemed that Pierre was no different from Jennifer.

Ethan snorted and said firmly, "Since you've said that, I can only tell you that you are right!"

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"I didn't misjudge you." Pierre said, "Well, go on then. I want to see what story you are capable of telling me."

Pierre decided to confront Ethan.

On the one hand, Pierre looked down on Ethan and wanted to suppress his arrogance. On the other hand, he wanted to give Ethan a hard time for making Jennifer upset.

Jennifer had made a case of how Ethan had been bullying her. Pierre wouldn't allow anyone to do that to his only daughter, and he would be sure to make Ethan pay for what he'd done.

Pierre wanted to let Ethan keep talking, watching Ethan embarrassing himself.

"I'm curious about your bluffing skills, and I'll allow you to show me the stories you can make-up!" Pierre thought to himself.

"You're right. I am from the countryside!" Ethan said, "But who told you that people from the countryside are poor and will always be lower than you?"

Ethan cleared his throat and continued, "The guitar does cost three million dollars. And there's one more thing I'm afraid you still don't know."

Ethan smiled mysteriously, but Pierre was disgusted by his smile and scolded, "What are you laughing at? Tell me, what thing that I don't know? I'm giving you the chance to explain yourself!"

Ethan didn't pay much attention to Pierre's rambling. He continued, "I suppose Mr. Campbell is here for a business deal, the deal to remodel the seventy million dollars Stratyer Residence villa? I guess your company wants to bid for the deal?"

Pierre was surprised.

Because he had only mentioned the deal to a few very close people, and it was confidential even to his employees. Pierre didn't know how Ethan found out about it.

He looked at Ethan and frowned. Pierre then asked in surprise, "How... how do you know about the deal?"

Ethan smiled. "How do I know about it? I'm afraid Mr. Campbell hasn't met with the owner?"

Pierre was stunned by Ethan's words. He could tell Ethan was insinuating that he was the owner of the villa.

"Are you saying..." Pierre frowned and said, "Are you trying to tell me that you are the owner?"

Ethan gave him an answer that confirmed Pierre's speculation.

"Yes, you're right. I bought the villa." Ethan smiled and asked, "Are you surprised?"

Ethan's words shocked Pierre.

"How... how is this possible?" Pierre asked.

Pierre found it impossible to believe the thing Ethan had told him.

Pierre couldn't have that much money himself, even after he sold everything he owned.

Ethan was only about twenty years ago, but how on earth did he get so much money?

Pierre didn't believe a word Ethan had said.

But he still wasn't sure about many things. How came Ethan know that Pierre was here for the business bidding?

"Young man, you pushed too far. Do you think I will believe you just because you told me so? I'm not a three-years-ago!" Pierre said to Ethan.

Ethan smiled. He looked as if he didn't care whether Pierre believed him or not.

In fact, at this moment, Pierre wasn't that sure about his judgment anymore.

He didn't believe Ethan's words. However, he was also worried about the rare chances that Ethan was telling the truth.

If Ethan was telling the truth, but Pierre kept giving him a hard time, Pierre's business deal would be gone.

Pierre was struggling with what he should do next.

Jennifer noticed Pierre's dilemma and said to him, "Dad, don't listen to him. He can't afford the villa even with the savings from his next life. That's his usual tricks, and he does that in school all the time. His big

mouth could tell all kind of no-bar-hold lies."

Hearing Jennifer's words, Pierre relieved a little. He whispered to Jennifer, "But Jennifer if he is lying, how could he know about the reason I'm here? I haven't mentioned the deal to a lot of people."

Hearing Pierre's concern, Jennifer laughed, "If that's your worried, don't. I slipped off the information earlier. He might take a note on that and use it to bluff you now."

Jennifer's words cleared all of Pierre's doubts.

If Jennifer hadn't told him that, Pierre would have believed Ethan.

After finding out an explanation of the source of the information that Ethan had told him, Pierre's attitude became very harsh toward Ethan.

Pierre threw a disdainful glance at Ethan and said sarcastically, "Oh, I see. It turns out Jennifer has told you that. I'm really surprised by the lies you have told me so far. So what's next? You also own Buckeye city? You are so shameless and pathetic!"

Pierre poured all his anger at Ethan.

But in Ethan's eyes, Pierre was the real clown.

Ethan wasn't bothered by Pierre. He just listened to his words and observed his behavior.

Ethan knew that the truth would prove itself once they got to the room of the restaurant. Ethan was curious about the reaction of Jennifer and Pierre.

And he had decided that he wouldn't give the deal to Pierre.

How could Ethan keep doing business with Pierre after his insulting attitude?

Ethan wasn't going to let Pierre take the job before he could meet with more contractors. He had planned on seeing more bidding cases and then made the decision.

However, Ethan didn't decline Pierre outside the front door of the hotel. He wanted the satisfaction of seeing them surprised and regretted.

Ethan smiled and made his plan. He would let them go to the room where the meeting was going to happen. Then he would ask someone to sit-in and listen to Pierre's presentation. At the moment that Pierre was about to finish, Ethan would walk in and declined his deal right in

his face. In this way, Ethan could enjoy watching him being surprised and repentant.

Ethan enjoyed the mental image of Pierre and Jennifer's begging for forgiveness.

Ethan gathered his thoughts. He looked at Pierre and Jennifer and smiled, "Believe it or not, but I don't think you'll get the deal. Let's wait and see!"

Ethan then walked into the restaurant. Standing in front of the elevator, he turned over and said to Pierre and Jennifer, "See you guys later!"

Pierre only saw Ethan's words as a joke.

Looking at the back of Ethan, Pierre's eyes were full of disdain and ridicule.

"At this point, he is still bluffing. What a joke!" Pierre said, "He's simply unreasonable!"

Pierre didn't want Ethan to disrupt his business. He patted Jennifer on the shoulder and said, "Jennifer, let's go. Forget about him. Dad is taking you to see the world!"

They then walked toward the other elevator.

The elevator on Pierre's side arrived sooner, and Pierre and Jennifer stepped into the elevator before Ethan.

When the elevator on Ethan's side arrived, Ethan's cellphone suddenly went off. It was from Linda.

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Chapter 153

Ethan picked up the phone, "Hello, Linda, what's up?"

Every time Ethan picked up Linda's phone call, he was excited.

Linda sounded hesitant.

"Ethan, where are you?" Linda asked hesitantly.

Ethan smiled and said, "Oh, I forgot to tell you. I'm talking with the contractor about the remodeling. I was in a hurry and hadn't got the chance to tell you. What are you doing right now? Do you want to come along? I can send you the address. Well..."

Ethan scratched his head and smiled awkwardly, "Well, it will be your home too, and I think we should make the decision together."

Ethan said this from the bottom of his heart. He blamed himself for not bringing Linda along.

This was the home Ethan bought for Linda and himself. It was unreasonable to skip Linda's opinions about remodeling.

What if Linda didn't like the style Ethan picked up?

Ethan sighed and continued, "How about this? You wait for me, and I'll go to pick you up right now."

While he spoke, Ethan was about to hang up the phone and head out of the restaurant.

At this moment, Linda spoke, "Ethan, I want to ask you for a favor."

"Is Linda in trouble?" Ethan wondered to himself.

He paused for a moment and then said to Linda, "You don't need to ask for my help. We are together. Anything you need, just tell me, and I'll try my best to do it for you. Tell me what's going on!"

Linda was a little relieved after hearing Ethan's words, "The thing is, a couple of my relatives are coming to town. But you know, with my mom is still staying in the hospital, we have sold our apartment. I..."

Linda hesitated. She then gathered her courage and asked, "Could you help me find a place to host them? I don't know what to do."

Hearing that Linda's problem was only about some visiting relatives, Ethan nodded and smiled. "I thought you are in huge trouble. No

problem, I'll take care of them. Don't worry!"

Linda was touched by Ethan's promise.

Linda and her mom were hanging by a thread. They didn't even have a place where they could stay in long terms, let alone hosting guests.

But Linda didn't know how to refuse her relatives' request.

One thing Linda was sure, even they claimed that they were coming to visit Linda's mom, her relatives' true purpose was to collect the debts.

Throughout the years of Linda's mother's illness, Linda had sold everything that belonged to them and asked for money from many of her relatives.

Linda had never mentioned those to Ethan.

She knew Ethan well enough to guess that Ethan would want to cover all her debts once he found out about them.

No matter how rich Ethan was, the money was earned by Ethan's family and belonged to them as well. Linda didn't want to take something that's not hers.

So she wanted to handle the debts herself without letting Ethan know.

That's the last defense of her dignity.

Linda didn't want people to think that she was a leech feeding off of Ethan.

But Linda had run out of options of how to host her visiting relatives.

So she had to ask for Ethan's help. Linda wasn't feeling easy when she asked the question.

One thing Ethan was right about was that Linda hadn't regarded him as a family member.

Ethan thought the favor that Linda asked was trivial.

He regarded Linda's relatives as his own. What a big deal of hosting a couple of relatives?

Ethan promised with a smile, "Don't worry. I'll get things settled soon."

Ethan immediately added, "I promise that I'll handle things about your relatives. Now, wait for me at the campus gate. I'll go and pick you up right away. Let's do the remodeling thing together!"

Linda was going to refuse the invitation, but Ethan hung up the phone

before she had the chance to speak.

She had no choice but to get changed.

Linda was in a dilemma. She really loved Ethan and saw Ethan as her everything.

But at the same time, she couldn't help but feel a huge distance between them. Linda wanted to get close with Ethan but felt being pushed away.

In fact, before she knew Ethan had a wealthy and powerful family, the feeling hadn't been that strong.

But after she found out the truth about Ethan, Linda felt there was a fence built in her heart against Ethan, and she had been pushing Ethan away subconsciously.

She didn't want Ethan to do things for her, she didn't want to own Ethan anything, and she didn't want anything from Ethan...

All in all, Linda didn't want people to think she was after Ethan's wealth.

The potential pressure from public opinions smothered Linda, who would take everything personally and seriously because of her introvert.

Linda understood her behavior was unfair to Ethan.

But that's who she was, and she didn't know how to change it.

Linda let out a sigh. She finished changing and walked out of her dorm room.

Meanwhile, Ethan walked out of the restaurant and got into a taxi. He called Pablo in the car.

Pablo felt flattered to received a phone call from Ethan.

"Young Master Ethan, you're here? I'm going down to welcome you right now..."

Pablo was very respectful toward Ethan. Ever since the time his son almost beat Ethan, he became extremely cautious when dealing with matters related to Ethan, making sure that nothing would run into trouble.

When Ethan called him the day before about having the meeting at his restaurant, Pablo immediately asked his staff to prepare one of his best rooms for Ethan.

And he was standing by to answer any of Ethan's request.

Ethan stopped him, "No, you don't need to come down for me. I'm calling to let you know that I need to step away. There are two people from a remodeling company are coming up. Could you meet them for me and ask them to leave the proposal?"

"You're not coming?" Pablo sounded surprised. He had prepared a banquet for Ethan in his best dining room.

Pablo saw Ethan's meeting at his restaurant as an important opportunity for him to get closer to Ethan.

Thinking that his plan for pleasing Ethan had failed, Pablo felt embarrassed.

He thought that all his hard work had gone to waste.

Pablo sighed secretly.

However, Ethan quickly interrupted, "No, that's not what I meant. I'm going. I just need to go and deal with something else at this moment. Could you review the proposal for me and asked them to leave the file. Let's talk about it in your restaurant later."

Ethan hoped that Pablo could stall for him. He didn't think picking up Linda would take a very long time.

Ethan still wanted to see how pathetic Pierre and Jennifer could be when they found out who their billionaire customer was.

But Pablo misunderstood Ethan's meaning as to tell Pierre and Jennifer to leave the proposal and go away.

In face, Pablo had his own plan for Ethan's house remodeling.

He had a few contractor friends. When he heard Ethan had bought the seventy million dollars villa, Pablo informed his friends and urged them to come up with proposals. And Pablo kept the information away from Ethan.

He wanted to please Ethan by surprising him with a great remodeling plan.

"Okay, don't worry, I understand. Do you want me to come downstairs for you later?" Pablo said cautiously.

Ethan said, "No need. I'll go up myself."

Ethan then hung up the phone.

Pablo was getting excited.

At this moment, someone knocked on the door of Pablo's office.

Pablo heard the voice of his secretary, "Mr. Owen, the guests of your reserved room are here."

Pablo then got up to see them.

Just as he getting up, Pablo had an idea. He said to the secretary, "You go and tell Joshua to join us."

The secretary answered Pablo's request and went off.

Pablo had his own plan for Joshua.

After Joshua offended Ethan, even though Ethan had said he wouldn't want to mention the incident again, Pablo hadn't been feeling easy about it.

He understood that he was incapable of having unsolved grudges with Eric Norman's son.

So Pablo had been finding chances to give Ethan a satisfying settlement.

During the time after the incident, Pablo had been disciplining Joshua, and Joshua had changed a great deal. He realized that his behavior had been repulsive. Joshua even mentioned that he would like to say sorry to Ethan and Maggie in person.

The only thing Joshua needed was an opportunity. Pablo thought he had had the opportunity that day.

A few minutes later, at the doorway of the private dining room.

Pablo entered the room without waiting for Joshua.

At this moment, Pierre, sitting in the room, was very excited. He was curious about what this billionaire would look like.

And most of all, he wanted to make the deal happen.

If someone was able to purchase a seventy-million-dollar villa, his overall financial capacity would be enormous.

And to match the villa, he would spend a lot on remodeling it.

As a remodeling contractor, Pierre knew it better than anyone.

From his years of experiences, Pierre estimated that the project would be a ten million dollars project at least.

And if he could get the deal done, the profit would be millions.

Pierre's company wasn't small, but the profit scale of the business wasn't huge either. Maybe he could get tens of million dollars deal done yearly, but the profit would just be a couple of hundred thousand dollars.

The deal of remodeling a seventy million dollar villa could double his yearly profit.

How could Pierre not be excited by such a lucrative deal?

Jennifer was even more excited.

She was fantasizing at this moment.

All she could think of was this billionaire.

People said he was young, rich, and handsome.

Thinking of this, Jennifer had a racing heartbeat. She pulled her shoulder back to show off a better-looking posure.

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Pierre was the first one to notice that the door was pushed open. He stood up in excitement, looking at the doorway with an ingratiated face.

Seeing Pierre's reaction, Jennifer stood up too, and her heart was beating faster.

But their faces changed after seeing the person who walked in.

Pierre was stunned. Jennifer turned disappointed in an instance.

The reason for Pierre's surprise was because of the sight of Pablo.

Pierre knew how influential Pablo was in Buckeye.

And he thought that the buyer of the villa was Pablo.

But soon, he realized that his expression was rude. He then put on a humble smile.

Pablo was famously wealthy in Buckeye, and he owned many restaurants.

The Empire Hotel was one of his most famous ones.

Pierre also heard that Pablo was building an eco-friendly restaurant in Misty Mountain in the east of Buckeye. The restaurant was aimed at the international seven stars standard. It would be the most luxurious restaurant in the province.

Pierre thought Pablo would definitely need contractors to do the interior designs for all of his restaurants. So Pablo could be one of his potential customers.

He thought that even if the villa deal had fallen through, there would be many opportunities for their further business partnerships.

So he had to be very polite to Pablo.

Pierre rushed in front of Pablo and reached out his hand, "I didn't know you are the owner of the villa. How are you? My name is Pierre Campbell. It's a great honor to meet you!"

Pierre then turned to Jennifer, "Hurry up, Jennifer. Come to say hello."

At this time, Jennifer's face showed great disappointment.

She had thought the person who walked in would be a young and

handsome billionaire. But what she saw was an old and ugly man. Jennifer was miserable after the disappointment.

She not only didn't want to shake hands with Pablo but wanted to run away right then.

However, Jennifer understood that under such circumstances, she couldn't say no to Pierre. Otherwise, Pierre wouldn't be easy with her afterward.

So Jennifer came forward to greet Pablo under the great reluctance, smiling awkwardly.

Pablo didn't pay much attention to the changes in their facial expressions. He just wanted to get rid of them.

The only reason he's here was that Ethan asked him to.

He didn't want to waste his time and energy to explain to them that he wasn't the real buyer of the villa.

Pablo just wanted to show up his face and asked them to leave. So he could wait for Ethan in peace.

Pablo sat down on the couch without paying attention to their greetings, saying, "Did you bring the proposal?"

Pierre smiled ingratiatingly and handed Pablo a brochure respectfully.

"Mr. Owen, this is it," Pierre smiled, "You know I just visited a famous Japanese interior designer and bought one of his concept design at a high price. Who would've thought that you asked the proposal for remodeling your villa right after I bought the design?"

As he spoke, Pierre opened up the brochure for Pablo and started his presentation, "The concept of the design is mother nature and the beauty in harmony. So, in terms of the design for the outside, we are using the style of the Oriental Garden..."

Pierre blabbered for a long time, and his presentation was full of professional jargon.

Pablo already had no interest in talking to them, and Pierre's elusive presentation further challenged Pablo's patience.

Halfway through the presentation, Pablo waved his hand to stop Pierre.

"All right, I see. You may go now, and please leave the brochure," said Pablo.

Hearing Pablo asked them to leave, Pierre was caught off guard. He smiled awkwardly and said, "Well, is it my presentation was too boring? I'll give you a brief version then."

Pierre wouldn't give up the opportunity.

Before he could go on, Pablo interrupted him again, and it was more bluntly this time.

"I've told you to leave the brochure and go! What's the use of telling me all of these. I'm not the one who need to remodel the house anyway!" Pablo said impatiently.

"Pablo isn't the owner of the villa?" Pierre was confused.

Pablo's words stunned Pierre.

"Then who bought the villa? And why Pablo is here?"

Pierre was at a loss. He looked at Jennifer and found that she was also confused.

"You...you are making fun of me, right?" Pierre laughed out loud, "In Buckeye, who could buy a seventy million dollars villa? It definitely is you!"

Pablo didn't want to waste more time on Pierre. He lit a cigarette and said, "Please."

Seeing Pablo was kicking him out, Pierre looked embarrassed. But he managed to keep the smile on his face and put the brochure on the coffee table carefully.

"Well...we are leaving then. Mr. Owen. See you. Please take a look at the brochure and let me know your thoughts!" Pierre said.

Pierre and Jennifer left the room in disappointment.

The moment he walked out of the room, Pierre let out a sigh with a miserable look on his face. He had rarely been treated so rudely.

However, there's nothing he could do about that. Pablo was way more superior than him.

"What's wrong with that guy? So snobbish? Just because he's rich? Who isn't?" Jennifer rolled her eyes at the closed door and complained.

However, Pierre had put aside Pablo's rude treatment. He was curious about the words Pablo had just said.

"His house doesn't need remodeling. Then who bought the villa?" Pierre

thought the meeting was filled with confusion.

Pierre scratched his head and couldn't figure out what had happened to that meeting.

"Dad, what should we do next?" Jennifer took another look at the door of the room, "Why do I feel that we won't get the deal?"

Hearing this, Pierre shook his head and said, "Well, let's talk about it when we are back home."

They were about to leave when they saw a person walking towards them.

With one look, Jennifer immediately became excited.

"Dad, isn't this Joshua Owen?" Jennifer said excitedly.

Jennifer didn't know much about Pablo Owen. They didn't share the same social circle.

But Jennifer knew too well about Joshua Owen.

Joshua was very famous among the social circle of offsprings of the rich and powerful families. He was tall and handsome, and his family was very wealthy. A lot of Jennifer's friends were interested in him for a long time.

Jennifer had been to Joshua's parties with her friends. So she had met with Joshua before.

Seeing Jennifer's excited face, Pierre was confused, "What makes her so happy after my deal has fallen through?"

After noticing Pierre's confused face, Jennifer explained with a smile, "Dad, don't you understand? Pablo just mentioned that he wasn't the one who bought the villa, then why is he here? Use your brain! It's his son who bought the villa!"

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Pierre didn't get Jennifer's words.

"Jennifer, what... what do you mean? Mr. Owen isn't the buyer, but his son is? And who is his son?"

Pierre looked in the direction where Jennifer was looking at. A tall and handsome young man was walking over, holding a crutch.

Pierre did not know Joshua. But thinking about Jennifer's words, he guessed this young man was Pablo's son.

Jennifer knew that Pierre hadn't met with Joshua before. So she started to explain to Pierre.

"Dad, see that man? He is Mr. Owen's son, Joshua Owen. You may not know him, but he is very famous among the offsprings of those powerful families."

She continued, "Mr. Owen just said that he didn't buy the villa, right? But we were asked to meet with the buyer here, and Mr. Owen just attended our meeting, which means that the buyer definitely has a very close relationship with Mr. Owen. So it has to Joshua Owen."

"Think about it. Only the Owen Family could be rich enough to buy a seventy million dollars villa in Buckeye. You know that the buyer is young and handsome, and he is in this twenties. Who else could it be?"

It did sound plausible after Jennifer's analysis.

Pierre seemed agreed with Jennifer's explanation.

It looked like this was the only reasonable explanation of what happened in that room.

Jennifer's theory convinced Pierre.

After the conversation with Pablo, Pierre had thought that he had lost the deal.

But at this moment, his hope came back alive again. He walked toward Joshua, looking excited.

"Are you Mr. Joshua Owen? Hello, how are you? I'm Pierre Campbell," Pierre walked to Joshua and reached out his hand to greet him.

After the incident that led up to his broken leg, Joshua, who had had a

reputation of being arrogant and unscrupulous, became more polite and agreeable.

Otherwise, he would have slapped Pierre for talking to him.

And tell Pierre to f*ck off.

Joshua paused. He looked at Pierre and asked cautiously, "Hello, may I ask who... you are?"

Pierre smiled awkwardly and introduced himself, "Sorry for being rude. I forgot to self-introduce. My name is Pierre Campbell, and I'm the CEO of the Yellowcoms Decoration Company. This is my business card. I think you may remember who I am by now?"

Pierre handed over his business card and looked at Joshua with a bright smile on his face.

However, Joshua had no idea who Pierre was. He looked puzzled.

"The decoration company? When did I contact a decoration company before?"

Before Joshua could ask, Pierre interrupted him with an awkward giggle. Pierre wondered how Joshua could forget a tens of million dollars remodeling deal.

Pierre continued, "Remodeling your place. Don't you remember? We are going to take your remodeling project."

Hearing Pierre's words, Joshua paused for a moment. He then laughed as if he just solved the mystery.

"That's right. Hello, you guys." Joshua said with a smile.

Joshua did have a remodeling project on his hand. It's just he was not the one to handle the matter.

Joshua had bought a store. He wanted to remodel the store space for his restaurant.

As the son of Pablo Owen, Joshua definitely acted like a young master. Joshua would take care of picking up the store and paying for it in terms of his restaurant. As for interior and management, Joshua would let his best buddies take over and title them as the restaurant's managers.

So Joshua assumed that his buddy chose Pierre to remodel the store space.

Thinking of this, Joshua smile and shook Pierre's hand, which was hanging in the air for a long time.

"So, it's Mr. Campbell, right? Nice to meet you. I'm really sorry. I've been busy. I almost forgot about the things about the interior." Joshua said with a smile.

Hearing that Joshua's affirmative answer, Pierre finally felt relieved.

His smile was getting bigger, and he shook Joshua's hand harder.

Pierre tried to use the opportunity to ingratiate himself with Joshua.

If Pierre could build a friendship with the customer, the business would be processing more smoothly. As shrewd as Pierre was, he knew it well.

Not for long, Joshua started to like Pierre after his flattering.

Seeing that his plan started going somewhere, Pierre handed the brochure to Joshua with respect.

"Young master Owen, this is our design proposal. Do you want to take a look? If you are okay with it, let's find a time to sign the contract. A famous Japanese designer designed it, and the design is definitely one of a kind. I believe that you will be satisfied when the project is done."

Joshua, who was lost within Pierre's compliment, didn't pay much attention to whatever Pierre was talking about. Picking contractor wasn't his job anyway.

However, Joshua thought it was irresponsible of his friend to hadn't picked up a design after such a long time.

It wasn't a big deal anyway. Joshua could have a conversation with his friend later.

He didn't want to disrupt his good mood.

Taking over the brochure, Joshua smiled and said, "Okay, Don't worry. Mr. Campbell. I will take a look at the brochure later."

Hearing Joshua's affirmation, Pierre was overjoyed. He quickly pulled Jennifer over and said, "Jennifer, come over and say thank you. You see, young master Owen, he is so young, so successful, and so reasonable. You should thank him!"

Pierre threw Jennifer in front of Joshua.

Joshua thought Jennifer looked familiar.

But to a superior young master of the Owen family, Jennifer was just a

nobody. Joshua couldn't remember Jennifer even if he tried.

Looking at Joshua, Jennifer was reserved and shy. Her face was turning red.

Jennifer was pretty. With a blushed face, she looked sweeter and more beautiful.

No wonder she got Joshua's attention.

"Young master Owen, how are you..." Jennifer faked a soft and innocent speaking manner.

She was quite good at seducing people.

She could use one sentence to grab and hold Joshua's heart. Joshua was in a daze for a while.

"Ah... Ah, how are you?..." Joshua looked at Jennifer and asked, "Have we...met before?"

Jennifer could tell that Joshua was interested in her. And she thought her dream finally came true.

So she decided to claim that they had never met before.

She knew what kind of people was in Joshua's social circle, and the relationships among them were very complicated and unethical.

If Jennifer admitted that they had met before, it would put Jennifer among them. She still wanted to keep faking the innocent image of herself.

Jennifer rolled her eyes and had an idea. She looked down and said with a smile, "I don't think so. I've never met you before. But maybe it's written in the stars."

Jennifer was really good at making up fairytales.

Joshua was surprised at how well-spoken Jennifer was. She just said what Joshua was thinking of.

He burst out laughing. Joshua took another look at Jennifer and said, "Hey, beautiful, if you don't mind, could we exchange contact information? I enjoy talking with you, and maybe we could be friends?"

Hearing Joshua asked for her contact information, Jennifer was surprised and excited.

She nodded and took out her cell phone. Jennifer pretended to be hesitant then gave Joshua her number.

Joshua was satisfied. He nodded and patted Pierre on the shoulder, "All right, Mr. Campbell. Don't worry. I don't even need to look at your proposal to know that I'll be happy about it. I'll use the design you give me!"

Hearing this, Pierre almost jumped up out of excitement like a schoolgirl, even though he was a middle-aged man.

He was on cloud nine.

Pierre was just snubbed by Pablo Owen, after his working so hard to please Pablo.

But Jennifer closed the deal for him effortlessly.

At this moment, Pierre thought highly of Jennifer.

He could also tell Joshua was interested in Jennifer. It made Pierre fantasize about his bright future.

If things would work out between Joshua and Jennifer, Pierre believed that he would become rich and famous very soon.

Pablo had owned billions of assets. With only one son, Joshua would inherit everything once Pablo passed away.

When the time came, Pierre imagined being called the father-in-law of the owner of the Empire Hotel.

He was satisfied just by the thought of it.

"Well, I'll leave you to it. Please excuse me. I need to go and talk to my dad. He's waiting for me."

Joshua's words interrupted Pierre's daydream. He nodded and said, "Of course. Young master Owen, you go and take care of your business. We can handle ourselves."

Finishing his words, Pierre dragged Jennifer to the elevator.

Joshua made a call-me gesture to Jennifer and said with a smile, "Don't forget, call me."

Jennifer nodded and was pulled away. In front of the elevator, Pierre said to Jennifer with excitement, "Jennifer, you just did your dad a huge favor."

Meanwhile, Ethan's taxi was at the Buckeye University campus gate.

Linda was already waiting there. Ethan lowered the car window and waved to Linda, "Linda, over here."

Chapter 156

Seeing Ethan, Linda ran over and got into the car.

"Sir, Let's go," Ethan told the driver. He then looked at Linda with a smile, "What's wrong? Do you have something on your mind? You look a little unhappy."

Linda managed to squeeze out a smile. She held Ethan's hand and shook her head, "Nothing, I'm fine."

Linda certainly didn't tell Ethan about her real problems.

She had owned more than one hundred thousand dollars to her relatives. The amount didn't look like a lot for Ethan.

But it was a huge sum of money for Linda.

She could only earn a couple of dozen dollars a day by singing. It would take her ten years to clear the debts at this rate.

And Linda was worried about it at this moment.

But she didn't want Ethan to know about it, even though the difficulties she was facing were huge.

Linda saw it as her own business, and it was unnecessary to have Ethan involved.

Linda was in Ethan's arms, and her hands were in his hands. But in her heart, the physical closeness couldn't erase the distance between Ethan and herself.

Linda wasn't good at putting on fake looks. So Ethan could tell from her face that Linda was bothered by something.

But he stopped asking when he realized that Linda didn't want to share.

Ethan respected Linda's privacy.

And he would definitely come to rescue if Linda needed the help.

"Oh, by the way," Ethan tried to start a conversation, "Linda, when are your relatives coming? Tell me, how many of them, and who are they? I'll ask people to get them someplace to stay. How about the Empire Hotel?"

"The day after tomorrow," Linda answered, "Four of them, and they are my aunts and cousins."

Linda quickly added, "Well... you don't need to spend too much money on them. Any hotel will do. The Empire Hotel is..."

Linda knew the Empire Hotel was a luxurious five-star hotel, and the expense would be a couple of thousands per night.

On the one hand, Linda didn't want Ethan to spend too much money.

On the other hand, Linda didn't feel good about watching them enjoy a high-end lifestyle after their horrible treatment of Linda and her mom.

Although Linda borrowed from them, it didn't make them any more generous.

She knew how they had been purposefully giving hard times to Linda and her mom.

And lending Linda the money wasn't out of their kindness but for the opportunity to swindle Linda's mom out of an old house.

The house was left to Linda's mom by Linda's grandpa, and it was a small and shabby house that didn't have a high market value.

But Linda's mom never thought of selling the house, even when she was sick and needed money for the hospital.

Because the house held the memory of Linda's grandpa.

But Linda's two aunts wanted the house.

Linda knew that they would take the house from her mom if Linda couldn't pay the debts.

They had been giving Linda and her mom hard times for the ownership of the house. Linda remembered all their despicable behaviors.

She had been suppressing her anger for years.

Linda had made up her mind a long time ago. She would do her best to have a successful career and earn a lot of money. So she could clear all the debts.

By that time, no one would be able to look down on her and humiliate her as they had done.

Think of the mistreats in the past, Linda's eyes turned red.

She couldn't help but feel that her mom and herself had had a tough life for years.

But everything started to look up since she had Ethan at the moment.

Linda gazed at Ethan with gratitude in her eyes.

Noticing Linda's tearful eyes, Ethan was anxious.

"What's wrong, Linda? Did someone give you a hard time again?" Ethan asked in concern.

Linda quickly wiped off her tears and squeezed out a smile, "Don't be silly. With you by my side, no one can give me hard times. I'm fine. I was just remembering the hard times in the past and got emotional."

Ethan frowned. He didn't believe Linda's words.

"For real? Is there something you didn't tell me?" Ethan asked.

Linda smiled and said, "Of course not. I promise."

Linda's promise eased off Ethan's suspicion.

She put her arms around Ethan's neck and nestled in his embrace. With a face of happiness, she said, "It's so nice to have you..."

Linda's words melted Ethan in an instant. He looked at Linda in his arms.

Ethan never felt so happy before.

They arrived at the front door of the Empire Hotel. After paying the fare, they got out of the car.

Ethan, holding Linda's hand, rushed toward the restaurant.

He couldn't wait to show Linda the remodeling proposals.

Ethan wanted Linda's opinions, and he would say yes to anything that Linda picked up.

When they reached the elevation, a cart just arrived.

The door opened up, and Ethan was stunned.

Jennifer and Pierre were standing on the other side of the elevator door.

Ethan was stunned. He had hoped that Pablo could stall them, so he could have the chance to humiliate them when he got back.

But Ethan found out his plan might have failed.

"You..." Ethan just started his words, but Jennifer interrupted him.

"You again? Why can't I just get rid of you?"

Jennifer was then stunned by the look of Linda.

She saw Linda as her archenemy.

Jennifer just wanted to rip Linda apart like a cat to a mouse.

"That's my luck. What a small world. Why do I have to meet with every piece of garbage today?"

Hearing Jennifer's words, Linda lowered her head.

Linda hated Jennifer, but she was also intimidated by her.

However, Ethan wouldn't stand Linda being humiliated.

He stared at Jennifer and said, "Watch your mouth. Don't ask for troubles."

Ethan continued, "Jennifer, here's a piece of advice. What goes around comes around. If you push everyone too hard, consequences will catch you sooner or later. You are not superior to anyone."

Jennifer didn't think she needed backing down anymore. With Joshua in her pocket, Ethan's threat sounded like a joke to her.

"You know what? I think I am superior to anyone. I don't have the time to talk to you, you piece of sh*t. In my eyes, you are less than nothing!"

Chapter 157

Jennifer hated Ethan. With Linda's presence, who was also a person Jennifer hated, Jennifer's aversion doubled.

She could never figure out how did two people that she hated the most winded up together.

Jennifer suddenly giggled as if she just remembered something funny, "If I didn't remember it wrong, someone just claimed that he was the owner of the seventy million dollars villa. What a joke. Do you still want to keep lying about it?"

Jennifer's words reminded Pierre, and he was looking at Ethan teasingly.

"Ridiculous. He didn't even blink when he lied," Pierre whispered, but Ethan heard what he was murmuring.

Ethan was disgusted by it.

He didn't pay much attention to the words coming out of their mouths. Ethan had guessed that maybe Pablo got them out before telling them the owner of the villa.

And maybe they were already in a bad mood when they saw Ethan.

Ethan laughed and said, "I've told you that you would find out about the owner when you were up there. I guess you were kicked out? Come up with me again? I'll show you who is the ridiculous one!"

Hearing Ethan's words, Pierre and Jennifer looked at each other and paused for a while. They then burst out laughing.

"Ridiculous!" Pierre shook his head and said, "He just won't stop lying."

Jennifer said scornfully, "You're so gross! We didn't expose you, but it doesn't mean we believed your lie!"

Jennifer and Pierre's behavior confused Ethan.

He frowned and didn't know what just happened to make them say so.

But soon, Jennifer gave him the answer.

She said, "Knock it off. It's getting boring. Let me ask you, why didn't you go up just now? Scared of the real owner of the villa? Luckily, you weren't there. If you dare to lie in front of Mr. Owen and his son, they will

kill you!"

"I wasn't up there because I went to pick up Linda," Ethan said indifferently, "Joshua? You go and ask him if he dares to touch me. You are just kidding yourself!"

Ethan didn't tell them that when Joshua tried to mess with him, Joshua's dad broke Joshua's leg.

Jennifer had no interest in Ethan's explanation.

She smiled and continued, "Only your silly girlfriend could believe your lies. Do you really think we would fall for it?"

Jennifer looked at Linda disdainfully and said, "To tell you the truth, we just met the young master Joshua, and he has told us that he is the owner of the villa. Why are you still lying to us now? You silly loser!"

Pierre added, "That's right. See for yourself, in Buckeye, who is rich enough to buy a seventy-million-dollars villa? He is the only one! You? What a joke! Are you looking for humiliation?"

Pierre and Jennifer burst into laughter.

Their words confused Ethan.

Why would Joshua want to claim the ownership of the villa?

Ethan realized that the only reason Jennifer and Pierre were sure Ethan was telling a lie was that Joshua said he had bought the villa.

Ethan was angry. He didn't know why Joshua would do that, but for whatever reason, Joshua had ruined Ethan's plan.

Ethan's face looked bad. He was the real owner of the villa, but Ethan was laughed at by the people he hated the most because of misunderstandings. Ethan couldn't accept the outcome.

"I don't believe you!" Ethan said firmly, "I don't believe Joshua would say that unless he doesn't want to live anymore!"

"Ha-ha..."

As soon as Ethan finished his words, Pierre and Jennifer burst into another round of laughter.

"He doesn't want to live? I say it is you!" Pierre said scornfully, "Boy, this is the Empire Hotel, the Owen Family's place. Watch your mouth. Otherwise, I'll call the security to beat you up!"

Ethan wasn't threatened. Even Pablo would have to be very attentive to

Ethan, and a couple of security guards wouldn't even dare to touch him.

Ethan looked at Pierre with contempt and said, "Sure, call them. I want to see what they can do for me!"

Ethan snorted coldly and continued, "I don't believe Joshua could say that the villa is his. Come upstairs with me, and I'll ask them to tell you who is the real owner of the villa."

Ethan's anger got into his head.

Pierre had believed that Joshua was the owner of the villa, and he would never agree to go up again with Ethan.

In Pierre's eyes, Going up to question Joshua was to looking for trouble.

Pierre chuckled and said, "What do you want? Now since the truth has gone out, why are you still trying to prove your lie? What's your problem?"

Pierre smiled bitterly and shook his head. He was ready to leave.

But Linda spoke out.

"Ethan didn't lie. Everything he said is true!" Linda shouted, "Ethan really bought the villa with seventy million dollars!"

Linda didn't think too much. She just couldn't bear to see Pierre and Jennifer being so aggressive to Ethan.

"Ethan's words are all true. Why don't you believe him? And you even humiliate him!"

Linda didn't like to fight back. She would take it when people were bullying her.

But she couldn't stand people bullying Ethan.

In a state of agitation, Linda's voice was raised so high that the restaurant's lobby suddenly quieted down.

People were watching over to find out what was happening.

Everyone heard the words that Ethan bought the seventy million dollars villa.

When Stratyer Residence was still in development, it had attracted much attention, and their seventy million dollars villa was the top of the attention list.

The words had already got out right after the villa was sold.

Some people believed that a billionaire of Buckeye bought it.

The rest of the people didn't think Buckeye could have someone wealthy enough to do that. They suspected that only Eric Norman could buy the villa, who was the richest foreigner who had Chinese ancestry.

None of the people could believe that a college student could be the buyer of the villa.

So when Linda shouted the words, people in the restaurant wondered what the alleged buyer looked like. After they saw Ethan, they burst out laughing.

The sound of the laughter was extremely harsh to the ears.

Linda's face immediately turned red.

She blamed herself for not helping Ethan but making him into a public laughing stock.

Linda wanted to tell them to stop. Ethan stopped her before she rushed over.

"It's okay," Ethan smiled at Linda and said.

Ethan wasn't happy being laughed at.

But he had made peace with the people's humiliating laughter a long time ago. Ethan ignored the humiliation by the people who didn't know him well altogether.

He didn't think it worth his time and energy to care about their opinions.

"I'm... I'm sorry..." Linda lowered her head. She blamed herself for being reckless.

"Haha... What a silly teammate!" Jennifer laughed at Linda.

Jennifer stared at Linda and Ethan with a big smile on her face.

"Haha, it's so stupid!" Jennifer continued, "What a perfect match! one is good at bluffing, and the other one can do the anti-helping. You guys are so funny!"

Jennifer said sarcastically. She gloated at the fact that Linda just made the whole lobby of people laughing at Ethan.

Jennifer's humiliation irritated Ethan, he didn't care about himself, but by humiliating Linda, Jennifer had crossed Ethan's bottom line.

Ethan shouted at Jennifer angrily, "What did you say? Say that again?"

Jennifer smiled complacently, and she and Pierre turned to leave. On her way out, Jennifer said, "I won't repeat myself. To you pieces of garbage, you don't deserve my attention. I'm telling you, no matter what you do, you will always be a joke!"

Ethan was furious. He charged at Jennifer, "Stop! Who are you talking about? Wait there! I'm calling Pablo, and let him tell you if I'm lying or not!"

Seeing both Ethan and Jennifer were getting aggressive, Linda held Ethan to stop him from being violent.

"Calm down..." Linda said to Ethan, "It's all my fault. Let's not give them another chance..."

Jennifer didn't stop. She looked back at Ethan with a twisted smile and gave him the finger.

"Calling Pablo? That's funny! What do you think you are? Yeah, say that louder, in case the security guards haven't heard you. How can they come to beat you up if they can't hear you?"

"Dumbf*ck!" Jennifer mouthed the word to Ethan.

Ethan was infuriated. He gritted his teeth and dialed Pablo's number...

Chapter 158

When Ethan tried to call Pablo, Jennifer and Pierre had walked out and got into the car.

By the time they drove off, Ethan's phone was connected.

"Hello, Young Master Ethan," Pablo answered the phone cautiously.

Watching Jennifer and Pierre driving away, Ethan was furious. But he couldn't do anything but sighed.

"Are you at the restaurant?" Ethan asked.

"Yes, I am. Are you here, Young Master Ethan? I'm going down for you..." Pablo said respectfully.

Watching Pierre's car disappearing, Ethan said, "Forget it, it's all right. I'm going up myself."

Hanging up the cell phone, Ethan went up with Linda.

The elevator stopped on the twentieth floor. The elevator door opened up, and Pablo and Joshua stood in front of it to welcome Ethan. They bowed to Ethan.

"Young Master Ethan, welcome..." Pablo was greeting Ethan, but Ethan stopped him.

"The people I invited was up here?" Ethan said unhappily, "Mr. Owen, what a brilliant reception you gave them."

Pablo could tell from Ethan's tone of voice that something went wrong. Pablo didn't know what exactly was the problem, and he was too scared to assume.

"Young Master Ethan, what... what went wrong?" Pablo asked nervously.

Ethan glanced at Joshua, who was standing anxiously. Ethan sneered and said, "Why don't you ask your son, Young Master Owen? I just met the contractors, and they told me Joshua claimed that he was the owner of the villa."

Ethan's words revealed his anger.

As cunning as Pablo was, he could tell who furious Ethan was.

Without warning, Pablo slapped Joshua, "You b*stard, who gave the gut to lie? Apologize to Young Master Ethan, or I'll break your other leg."

Joshua was in total confusion.

Ethan's words had already thrown Joshua off, and Pablo's slap bewildered him.

Joshua looked at Ethan with an innocent face and said nervously, "Young... Young Master Ethan, I didn't say that. Please believe me. It has to be some kinds of misunderstandings."

Even though Joshua said it could be a misunderstanding, he suspected that Ethan wanted revenge by creating trouble for him.

"You didn't?" Ethan sneered. Ethan didn't believe Joshua. If Joshua didn't say it, who did?

Ethan had already held grudges against Joshua. After being humiliated downstairs just now, Ethan wanted to vent all his anger on Joshua.

Joshua had no one to blame but himself because he had talked to Jennifer and Pierre.

"I really didn't say that..." Joshua was scared out of his wits. He tried very hard to remember, and he finally got it. Joshua quickly explained, "I remember! I think I know where the misunderstanding came from!"

Joshua realized what went wrong when he was recalling the conversation among Jennifer, Pierre, and himself.

Joshua knew that Ethan had bought the villa, but Joshua didn't realize that the proposal was for the villa when Pierre tried to talk to him about the remodeling proposal.

It seemed Joshua had made a mistake, and so did Jennifer and Pierre.

Joshua explained, "Young Master Ethan, it is a misunderstanding. Please listen to me. Here is what happened. I invested in a hot pot restaurant, and it is under renovation recently. When Pierre tried to sell me his remodeling proposal, I thought it was for my restaurant, so I said yes. It is a misunderstanding made by both of us."

Joshua was afraid that Ethan would not believe him, so he explained the whole thing in detail. Then he continued, "That's how the misunderstanding happened. I didn't know. Please don't blame me, Young Master Ethan..."

Joshua was scared of Ethan being angry. Joshua had lost one leg the last time he messed with Ethan, and he couldn't begin to imagine what would happen if Ethan was angry at him again.

Ethan thought Joshua's explanation made sense, and it was all a misunderstanding.

How could it be so coincidental? Ethan sighed heavily, and he felt heavy on his chest.

Because Ethan didn't have an excuse to vent his anger on somebody else, and he could only swallow his grievance.

Seeing Joshua gave Ethan an acceptable explanation, Pablo breathed a sigh of relief for his son.

Pablo only slapped Joshua for avoiding Ethan's further wrath. He had assumed that Joshua had done something stupid and dangerous again.

With the confusion solved, Pablo was content.

But one thing Pablo couldn't figure out was that what caused Ethan so much anger? What had those two people done to Ethan?

After a moment of thinking, Pablo asked cautiously, "Young Master Ethan, what's going on? Did those people offend you just now? Don't worry. I'll send someone to deal with them right away..."

Pablo then called someone over and started to give orders.

But Ethan stopped him.

"Forget it," Ethan sighed. He knew very well what Pablo meant by dealing with them.

No matter how much Ethan hated Jennifer and Pierre, he never thought of causing serious physical harm to them. Ethan was a genuinely kind person.

"How can you let them walk?" Pablo said angrily, "Something should be done to those who don't know their position. Otherwise, they will never learn that there are some people in the world that they can't mess with. What you'd like to happen, just let me know."

Hearing this, Ethan still waved his hand and said, "Forget it, I don't want to talk about them anymore. Let's go. I heard that you helped me pick a few general contractors? Do they have design proposals? Let's go and have a look."

Pablo knew how to please people. If Ethan had decided to stop talking about something, he wouldn't bring it up again. Pablo said, "Excellent!"

Young Master Ethan, this way, please."

He led Ethan and Linda into the private banquet room.

Pablo asked someone to bring a stack of folders and put them in front of Ethan and said, "They are all here. Young Master Ethan, please have a look."

Ethan nodded and said to Linda, "Have a look. Whatever you like. It's all up to you!"

Before Ethan said those words, Pablo didn't pay too much attention to Linda.

When hearing Ethan let Linda decide on the remodel plan for the expensive villa, Pabo could tell that Linda was someone very important to Ethan.

Pablo quickly ingratiated himself with Linda, "Yes, please have a look, Young Madam." Pablo then turned to one of his staff, "Bring some fruits for Young Madam, the best ones from our stock." He then asked Linda, "Young Madam, what would you like to eat for lunch? I'll ask the cook to prepare them for you. The chiefs of the Empire Hotel are all hired from all over the country for their talents. I bet you'll like their works."

Linda was embarrassed to be called Young Madam. She was blushed and flustered. Not knowing what to respond, Linda started to go through the proposals.

There were more than ten designs. Linda skimmed the first couple of designs, thinking they were vulgar.

After looking at them, Ethan also felt that the designs were shallow, tacky, and tasteless.

Almost finished all the proposals, Linda hadn't seen one design that caught her eyes. She was a little disheartened.

When she opened up the last one, Linda's eyes lighted up.

"Ethan, look at this. It's so beautiful. I like it!" Linda said excitedly.

Chapter 159

Hearing Linda's words, Ethan went to check the proposal himself.

Ethan had zero experience in house remodeling.

He knew nothing about interior design.

Even so, he was excited when he saw the design proposal Linda picked out.

It was very different from the rest of the design proposals.

The rest of the designs all tried to achieve a luxurious and magnificent style.

Ethan wasn't a fan of that.

Although he was wealthy after years of poverty, Ethan didn't have the desire to show off his wealth through appearances as the other nouveau riche did. Ethan thought all the gold paint and burgundy mahogany looked tasteless.

He didn't want to ruin his villa by using those tawdry designs.

All the showy and tasteless designs would make his villa look like a poorly executed montage of a series of laughable choices.

The overall look would be ordinary and non-stylistic.

Ethan didn't like doing things like everybody else.

He wanted uniqueness and personality.

And the design Linda picked up fit Ethan's taste like a glove.

The design highlighted the relationship between the human being and space, and the color palette featured the color white. To emphasize the interior style, the design also offered some alterations to the exterior.

The design aimed at making the villa into a space that was quiet and secluded.

Ancient Oriental style was another feature element of the design. Apart from the interior, the package also offered the landscape design of the exterior of the villa. White walls combined with areas of bamboo gave the whole villa a Zen style, which separated the space from the bustling real world.

According to the landscape design rendering, there would be trees planted in the yard, and a winding stream was placed outside of the house. Over the stream, there was a small bridge. A gazebo would be built in the yard. The rendering of the exterior of the villa looked like a dreamland.

The overall design of the villa was organic, featuring nature and harmony. And the infrastructure of the villa would be state-of-the-art.

The designer applied technology throughout the design of the villa to create a more comfortable and convenient way of living.

In a nutshell, the design had a great balance between naturistic aesthetics and a technology-assisted living experience, and it was able to transform a living space into a paradise.

"Yeah, I agree with you. This one is fantastic!" Ethan smiled and said to Linda, "How about we settle on this?"

Linda didn't seem to be ready to make the decision. She pointed at the rest of the design proposals and said, "Why don't we decide after finishing them all? In case there is one you like better."

Ethan stroked Linda's forehead and chuckled, "Silly girl, I'll agree with you on anything. I actually have checked them all, and this one is way better than any of them. I'm good with this one. That's it. I like it too."

Hearing Ethan's compliment for the design, Pablo smiled. He said, "Young Master Ethan, you and the young lady have such a great taste. To be honest, I like it too."

Pablo continued, "I didn't say it to please you. I do think the design is great! I have been in the hospitality business for years. I need to deal with interior design for my restaurant for more than ten years. So I could tell from the first look which one is good which one is not. To tell you the truth, I was amazed by this design the first time I saw it. I had invested hundreds of millions in a seven-star standard eco-friendly hotel on the east side of Buckey, and I wanted a similar design to my hotel. So I invited an interior designer from Singapore to do it. But this one is way better than mine."

No matter what Pablo claimed, he indeed said those words to make Linda and Ethan happy.

However, one thing he didn't lie. He was a somewhat expert in

evaluating interior design.

And he genuinely thought the design Linda picked out was good.

However, Pablo also frowned. Because he didn't remember this one was part of the designs he collected for Ethan.

The rest of the design proposals were from either Pablo's friends or the design companies that Pablo had worked with. Pablo could tell each design was from which company.

But he didn't recognize the design proposal that was in Linda's hand.

But seeing that Ethan was excited about the design, Pablo didn't bring up the problem. He didn't want to upset Ethan.

After hearing Pablo's approval on the design, Ethan was more convinced about his decision.

Ethan looked at Pablo and said, "Mr. Owen, it's settled. This is the one. Please help me contact the design company."

Ethan scratched his head and said with a smile, "But... I have no experience in the interior business, if you don't mind, could you help me figure out the details?"

Pablo nodded and answered, "No problem. Rest assured, Young Master Ethan. I'll handle it for you, and I can assure you I'll do my best. Can you let me take a look at the file? I need to find out their information."

Ethan nodded. He handed Pablo the folder straight away.

Pablo turned to the cover page of the proposal. But he was surprised when he saw the company information.

"Dad, what's wrong?" Joshua realized Pablo's abnormal behavior and whispered, "Is there anything wrong?"

Joshua took a look at the words that Pablo was staring at.

And his face also changed in an instance, and he was speechless.

Ethan saw both Pablo and Joshua were staring at the proposal pages in silence. He frowned and asked, "What's wrong, Mr. Owen?"

Ethan's voice brought Pablo back to his senses. He said with a horrible look on his face, "Young Master Ethan... You, you'd better see it yourself."

Ethan was confused. He took the proposal file and looked at the company information.

"Buckeye City Yellowcoms Decoration Company..." Ethan was also stunned after reading the name.

"What..." Ethan took a look at Linda. He wanted to tell her but gave up the idea.

What a coincidence!

After seeing so many disappointing designs, the only good one was from Pierre Campbell's company.

Ethan was speechless. He just announced that he would not use Yellowcoms Decoration Company no matter what they would offer. And yet, he just picked out their design as his favorite.

Ethan couldn't decide. He looked at Linda for an answer.

Linda realized what was going on, and she could see the dilemma.

She really liked the design.

Different people had different preferences for a perfect home, and they would work toward each different direction to get to their dream house.

And the design Pierre presented matched Linda's dream house perfectly.

Every view from every angle of the design was the most beautiful picture in Linda's mind.

Linda loved every bit of the design.

But the problem was it came from the company of Jennifer's dad.

Linda also hated Jennifer and everything around her, including her dad's company.

Linda couldn't believe that as a horrible person like Pierre, his company could offer such a great design.

She also remembered Ethan's claim. He would never work with Pierre Campbell, not even he could design a palace for him.

Linda didn't want to go against Ethan's will, and she also didn't want to put Ethan in a difficult position.

But she really liked the design...

To Linda, this was a difficult decision.

She thought for a long time of how to answer Ethan.

Linda lost in her thought.

"Linda?" Ethan's soft voice brought Linda back from her thought.

"Ah? Oh..." Linda smiled awkwardly. She looked at Ethan with an answer in her head.

Linda smiled at Ethan, and then she grabbed the design proposal away from Ethan's hand and threw it away.

Linda smiled and said, "I don't like this anymore. Let's look at the others."

Linda looked determined, but Ethan could tell she did this for him.

Linda didn't want Ethan to backtrack his own words for her. But Ethan knew how much Linda loved the design.

Ethan was grateful for Linda's change of thought, but he also felt uneasy for being unable to make her happy.

Linda acted as if she was over it. She didn't even take another look at the design. She started to check all the other design proposals all over again.

While reviewing the proposals, Linda said with a smile, "Look, I probably didn't pay enough attention the last time. This one isn't bad. That golden decorative wall, the marble fence outside, and that chandelier..."

Ethan could tell Linda saying the words on purpose. She didn't want to make Ethan feel bad.

Linda was still reviewing all the design proposals very carefully.

Ethan stared at the design Linda had tossed out, hesitating. He lost in his thought for a long time.

Finally, Ethan walked over and picked up the proposal. Ethan had made up his mind, so he smiled with ease.

"Mr. Owen," Ethan walked over to Pablo and smiled, "Please contact Pierre Campbell. We'd like to use the design he presented."

Ethan's words surprised everyone in the room. Linda raised her head in astonishment. She looked at Ethan in disbelief.

"Young Master Ethan, you don't have to do it. You know what. I have friends working in interior design from Japan, Europe, and even America. I'll ask them to recommend some top design companies. We can have designs ten times better than this one. You really don't need to work with those low-lives."

Even Pablo felt Ethan was too hard on himself.

But Ethan smiled. He looked at Linda and said, "No, this one is good. As long as Linda likes it, I can do anything."

Chapter 160

Hearing Ethan's words, Linda was almost moved to tears.

Linda understood how much Ethan was going to sacrifice for her.

Even Pablo Owen, a powerful figure in Buckeye, had to listen to Ethan's command. But for Linda, Ethan was willing to work with those horrible people like Jennifer and Pierre.

Ethan had put his ego and even his dignity aside for Linda.

Linda didn't know if Ethan was part of the social circle of the rich and powerful families' offsprings.

If he were, Ethan would be laughed at for a very long time among his friends.

The matter wasn't as simple as picking up a design. It was a matter of dignity.

"No, Ethan, I've decided. I don't like the design anymore!" Linda was determined. She sprung up and tried to grab the proposal from Ethan's hand.

Ethan dodged. He shook his head and smiled, "Nonsense, don't think I can't see how much you like it. If you give this one up, you might not be able to see another one as good as this one!"

Ethan was also determined, and nothing seemed to be able to change his mind.

He had made up his mind to use the design.

Seeing neither Linda nor Ethan was going to compromise, Pablo and Joshua didn't know what to do.

Joshua secretly glanced at Pablo as if asking him what's next.

Obviously, it wouldn't be a good idea to support either side at this moment.

If they said things for Linda, Ethan wouldn't be happy.

They may not care too much about Linda's feelings. But if they supported Ethan, and Ethan was laughed at because he worked with Pierre, Ethan would have to blame Pablo and Joshua for not talking him out of it.

Pablo didn't know Ethan too well, but he knew how unpredictable those children from rich and powerful families.

For a moment, Pablo had no idea what to do.

But a great idea suddenly came to his mind.

Pablo interrupted Ethan. He said with a smile, "Young Master Ethan, I have an idea that can help you keep the design without being laughed at."

Hearing Pablo's words, Ethan was interested, "Really? Tell me about it!"

Pablo chuckled and said, "Well, since Miss Linda likes it, I think I can ask a friend of mine to buy the design from Pierre, and he won't find out it's actually us."

"If we own the design, we can use it however we want without worrying about being laughed at."

Pablo was very proud of his idea. He believed his solution was perfect.

"Yes, this is a good idea!" Joshua was excited about Pablo's solution, "In this way, we can legally use the design, and Pierre can't do anything about it. What's even better is that Young Master Ethan, you don't need to be officially involved in it. My dad and I can take care of it."

To preserve Ethan's dignity, it was a wonderful idea.

Pierre and Jennifer would definitely boast about themselves non-stop once they found out Ethan would want to work with them.

Ethan was excited about Pablo's idea too. Who didn't like a solution that could keep his own dignity intact.

But soon, Ethan's excited face disappeared.

He looked at Pablo and shook his head, saying, "Forget it. I appreciate your effort. But I don't like the low-blow. Let's work on contacting them."

Ethan then laughed at himself and continued, "Pierre and Jennifer wouldn't believe the villa was mine anyway. I don't need to waste my time worrying about how they would think. Mr. Owen, please help me deal with them. And don't worry, I won't blame you for it if anything unhappy happens."

"Well..." Pablo didn't like what he heard. But since Ethan had said so, Pablo wasn't going to keep pushing.

"Ethan, I really don't want the design anymore..." Linda blushed. She

looked at Ethan and said, "You should know what kind of person Jennifer is. When she finds out about it, she would definitely laugh at you and tell everyone about it to humiliate you."

Ethan smiled and signaled Linda to stop. He then said, "Don't worry, I know what I'm doing."

Seeing that Ethan had made up his mind, Linda stopped persuading him. She knew Ethan too well to know that she couldn't change Ethan's mind once the mind was made.

Pablo sighed and said, "Well, then Young Master Ethan, I'm on it."

He then turned to leave.

Before Pablo stepping out of the room, Ethan called him.

"Mr. Owen, please wait a minute," Ethan suddenly remembered the visit of Linda's relatives, "I have a favor to ask."

Hearing this, Pablo smiled and said, "Just name it, Young Master Ethan. It's my honor to assist you."

Pablo's ingratiating words made Ethan feel embarrassed to ask.

"Well...the thing is. Linda has a couple of relatives, and they are coming to town in a couple of days. I was wondering could you reserve rooms for them in the Empire Hotel?"

Knowing it was for Linda's relatives, Pablo quickly nodded and answered, "No problem. Don't worry, Young Master Ethan. I'll take care of it."

Just before Pablo's leaving, he stopped. Pablo walked over to Ethan with a smile and said, "Young Master Ethan, How about we don't do the Empire Hotel?"

Ethan was surprised at Pablo's words. He asked with embarrassment, "What's wrong, Mr. Owen... why are you taking back your word?"

Pablo shook his head in a hurry, "No, of course not. That's not what I mean. I mentioned my new eco-friendly hotel on the east of Buckeye, Cloud Covert Manor. It's a seven-star hotel and is way better than the Empire Hotel. I was thinking, how about we let Miss Linda's relatives stay there? The traffic is better over there, to downtown or tourist attractions."

Ethan liked Pablo's suggestion, "Well, Cloud Covert Manor it is! Thank

you for the trouble, Mr. Owen."

Pablo chuckled and said, "Don't mention it. Not trouble at all. Don't worry. I'll ask my staff tomorrow to reserve the best rooms in the hotel. Just mention my name when the relatives are in town."

Ethan nodded. Just when everything seemed to have been decided, Linda suddenly spoke.

"It's too much, Ethan. Any random place would be good. You don't need to find them a fancy place to stay."

Linda thought it was unfair to treat her relatives that well, after the hardship they had put her mom and herself through.

The Empire Hotel was already too good for them. Why switched to somewhere even better?